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ABSTRACT

Designed for teachers of early childhood or special education students, this guide contains instructions and illustrations for classroom activities for the months of September, October, and November. Most of the activities involve art projects and many incorporate teaching in other subject areas such as mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies. For September, ideas are given for creating an ongoing bulletin board with a paper doll figure for each child in the class. For October, activities include spray painting over fall leaves, making a Halloween activity chart, making a Halloween necklace, and making Halloween decorations and masks from paper bags. Several teaching and activity ideas using pumpkin seeds are also given. For November, directions are provided for an election day activity, a Native American picture writing activity, a Thanksgiving shape book, and a Thanksgiving bulletin board. (EM)

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FALL ACTIVITIES
for the EARLY CHILDHOOD and SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM

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FOREWORD

These publications have been prepared by the New York City Teacher Centers Consortium to promote the sharing of successful teaching practices within and among schools. The material contained in this series of publications was prepared by New York City teachers in response to the expressed requests by teachers for teacher developed and teacher tested curriculum resources. The instructional activities and strategies presented within have been tried out by teachers in classrooms and have been found to be effective in meeting the educational needs of students.

One primary purpose of the Consortium's Instructional Information Center is to insure the multiplier effect of successful teaching practices by identifying and disseminating products developed by teachers. Teachers are invited to submit innovative instructional curriculum materials which have been found to enhance the learning potential of students.

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MYRNA COOPER

Director

INTRODUCTION

It has been my experience that children best develop knowledge and skills in an atomosphere of fun. Through the years, the following Fall activities have had a good deal of success in my classroom and have led to an integration in many areas of the curriculum.

Most of the activities are designed to be used in any mode of classroom management that is comfortable to the individual teacher. They are adaptable to either formal or informal classroom planning and are equable for groupings beyond the Early Childhood level. Special Education students will enjoy participating in the activities because in addition to achievement in the curriculum, there is an emphasis on a concrete finished product.

The materials needed are easily obtainable and the use of outdated skill books are recommended as a resource for illustrations.

I am aware that using the Seasons as a focal point for Early Childhood planning is not new to teachers. We have long understood that material to develop the math, language arts and science curriculum is more effective when it is relevant to the students' world. I can only hope that I am making a new and stimulating contribution to your own collection of successful plans.

PENNY DENTON

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IDEAS FOR AN ONGOING BULLETIN BOARD

Early in the school year the teacher makes a doll of each child in the class. Paraprofessionals can help with this. These dolls can be used for many bulletin board activities.

PATTERN FOR THE DOLLS

Have students bring in pictures of themselves. The head should be this size.

Shirt
Dress
Use material scraps
or wrapping paper
Pants

BULLETIN BOARD IDEAS

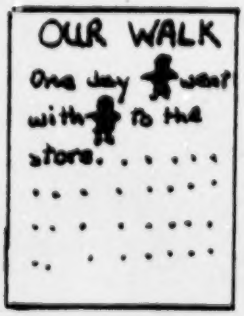
Here are some of the activities that you can do with the dolls.

- Make a September bulletin board by drawing a large shoe and place the class dolls around it. Identify each doll with a name tag. The children will learn to recognize their own and their friends' names.

- The dolls can be used to express the children's feelings as the year progresses. For instance, in December, the scene can be a gift shop and each child could have a thought balloon over his head. In Kindergarten the children could dictate the thoughts to the teacher and she could write it down for them. In the first or second grade the children can do their own writing. For instance:

- Dolls can be used in pairs or sets for math bulletin boards.

- Dolls can be used to illustrate experience charts.



- Another bulletin board idea could be an airport. Each doll could be holding a suitcase. A thought balloon could tell where the child would like to go and why?

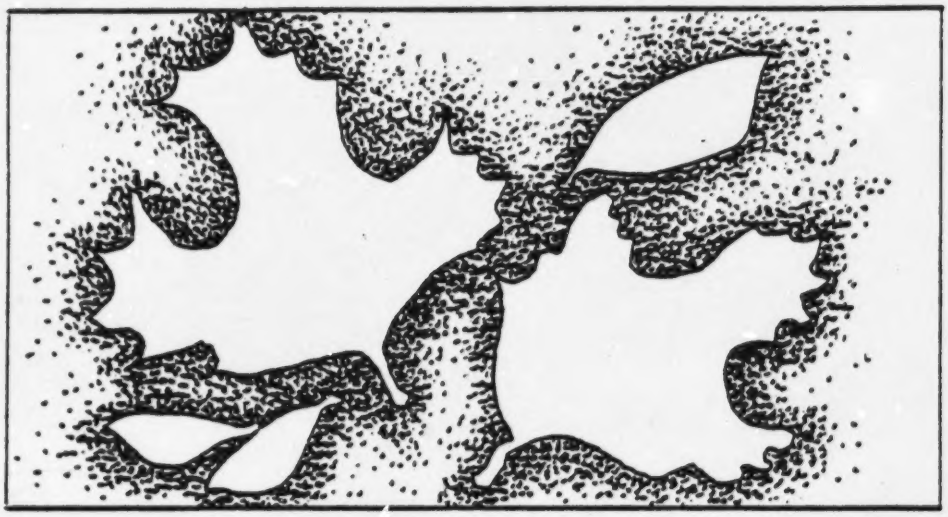
You will find that the children enjoy reading their friends' words. In the second grade you could make a question sheet that would use the bulletin board as a reference. For instance:

- Where does Linda want to go?
- Can you think of reasons why she wants to go there?
- Why don't you ask her to tell you?

- Ask the children to think up their own ideas for classroom bulletin boards using the dolls. Have fun!

JKW/ch

SPRAY PAINTING FOR FALL

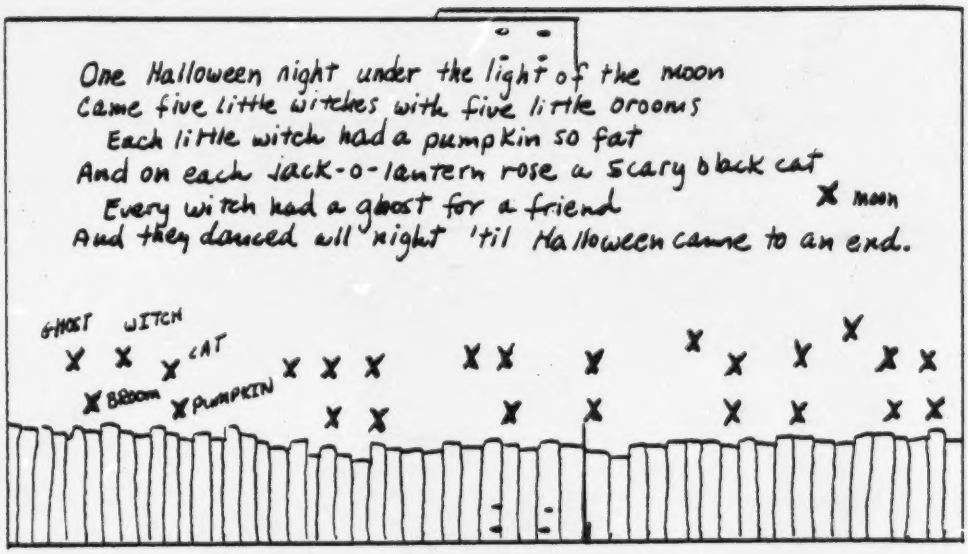


You will get some beautiful effects using the following method:

- USE AN EMPTY SPRAY BOTTLE.
- MAKE YOUR PAINT VERY THIN.
- PLACE LEAVES ON LARGE PAPER.
- USE SCOTCH TAPE TO HOLD LEAVES IN PLACE.
- PUT PAPER IN A LARGE CARTON TO PREVENT SPRAYING THE ROOM.
- SPRAY INTO BOX WITH VARIOUS FALL COLORS.
- YOU WILL LOVE THE RESULTS! REMOVE LEAVES!

FIVE LITTLE WITCHES
A Halloween Activity Chart

1. CHART BACKGROUND


One Halloween night under the light of the moon
Came five little witches with five little brooms
Each little witch had a pumpkin so fat
And on each jack-o-lantern rose a scary black cat
Every witch had a ghost for a friend
And they danced all night 'til Halloween came to an end.
moon
GHOST
WITCH
CAT
BROOM
PUMPKIN

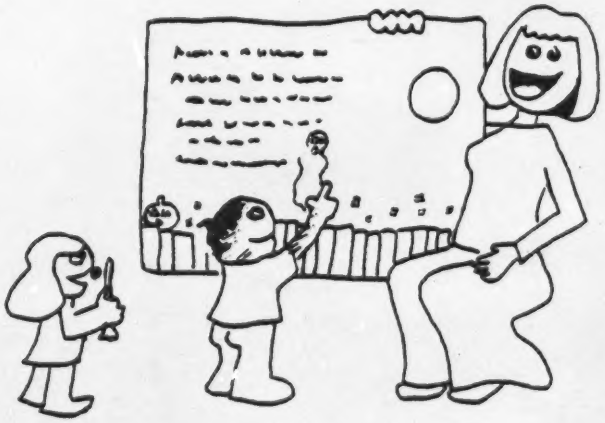
- Attach two 22 x 28 pieces of poster board with staples. Reinforce from the back with tape.
- Draw a facsimile of a fence along the bottom of the poster board.
- In large letters, reproduce the following poem on the background.
- Then attach three-quarter inch squares of Velcro to the background. A piece can be attached by a staple and should be located on the background where an X is marked on the above example.
- Also attach a small piece of Velcro to the back of each of the characters that can be found on the next page.

2. MAKING THE CHARACTERS

Use these patterns to trace and cut out five copies of each character. Use oaktag for firmness. Also cut out one three inch circle for the moon.

3. HALLOWEEN CHART ACTIVITIES

1. Read the poem to the children.
2. Distribute the five witches, five brooms, five cats, five ghosts and five pumpkins.
3. Arrange children in five sets. Discuss how many children were needed to have five sets of five.
4. Check one to one relationship.
5. Count by ones to twenty five.
6. Count the sets to twenty five.
7. Add the moon for 26.
8. Procede to read poem again, but this time have the children actually place the characters on as they appear in the poem. Check to see if all the 26 pieces have been utilized.
9. Don't take the lesson away after Halloween. You will find that the children reinforce the lesson by playing the game over and over.

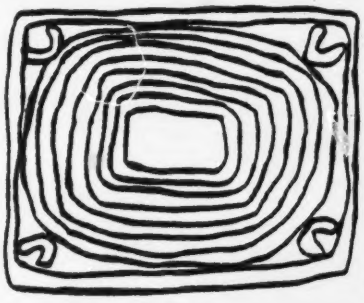


LET'S MAKE A PLASTIC PUMPKIN NECKLACE FOR HALLOWEEN

This activity will give the children an opportunity to observe the scientific concept of matter changing. When the heat is applied to the piece of plastic, the plastic will change its shape and density.

STEP ONE

Bring in a plastic meat tray. Wash it well.



STEP TWO

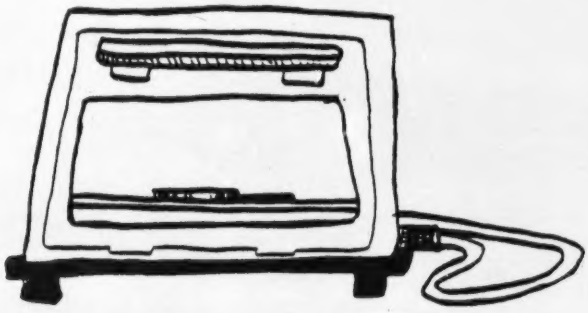
Cut out a pumpkin shape using as much of the plastic as you can.

STEP THREE

Use a magic marker to make the pumpkin features.
Make sure you put a hole in the pumpkin stem at this point.
I use a hole puncher. It must be made before you apply heat.

STEP FOUR

Use a small baker oven set at a medium temperature. You do not have to protect the tray. It will not be harmed. Have children watch but not too close to the oven. The results are like magic to them.



The plastic curls, then uncurls and shrinks within minutes. When you remove it, it has become thicker and opaque.

When cooled, put a string through the hole. Don't be surprised if the children wear it until Christmas.

JKW/ch

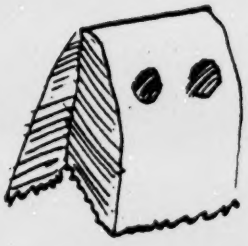
NOW ABOUT PUMPKIN SEEDS

- Let everyone feel the sticky strings inside the pumpkin.
- Keep a tape recorder going to get the sounds of the reactions of the children as they touch the textures inside the pumpkin. This can be played back when building an experience chart.
- Wash the seeds thoroughly to get rid of the pumpkin strings.
- It has been found better to steam the seeds before baking. It makes the seeds less tough. Use a metal steamer inside a pot so that seeds are not immersed in water. Steam in covered pot for 30 minutes.
- Dry seeds and spread out on cookie sheet. Coat with a little vegetable oil. Sprinkle salt and bake at 300° for one half hour.
- Try estimating how many seeds were baked.
- Distribute evenly and count how many each child received.
- Leave some seeds uncooked. Study what happens after a few days. Use magnifying glass.

JKW/ch

PAPER BAG ART FOR HALLOWEEN

Decorate and attach string.



Silly masks can be made by pasting and coloring on the bag. Supply all kinds of scrap materials.

Paint bottom of bag with brightly colored eyes and paint beak orange. Tie bag and fringe extra length for tail.

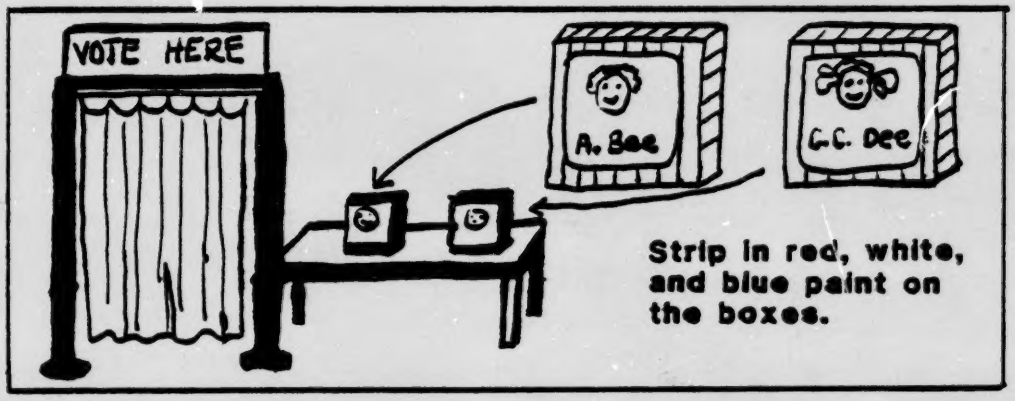
Paper Jack-O-Lantern
Stuff bag with newspaper.

Flying Witch
Draw a head and staple to top of bag. Staple arms. Put stick through bag and add fringed paper for broom. Attach string to top of hat and watch her fly.

JKW

ELECTION DAY ACTIVITY

Hold a mythical election. Discuss with the children how voters decisions can have a lot to do with how they live. Do not have the children in class run for office at this time because emotions enter into the lesson and there is less concentration on the point of the mechanics of the election.



Using a string and a curtain, make a voting booth. On the other side of the curtain, have a table with two boxes.

Have a child dressed as a police officer
He/she guards the polling place
so that no one bothers the voters
while they are voting. Make a police
officer's hat and vest. Don't forget the
badge!

Each child receives a slip of paper to be placed in one of the boxes. Time must be spent on the concept of one to one correspondence. Children can make speeches for their favorite candidates. In grades one or two, letters to the candidates may be written. Children also like to make posters for their candidates. In kindergarten, the teacher can write the blurb for the children. In the other grades the children can write their own.

After the election the counting team will tally the votes. Use the tally sheets or the chalkboard. Each child can use his own tally sheets as well.

Election Tally Sheet

CANDIDATES	TALLY	TOTAL
C. C. DEE		
A. BEE		

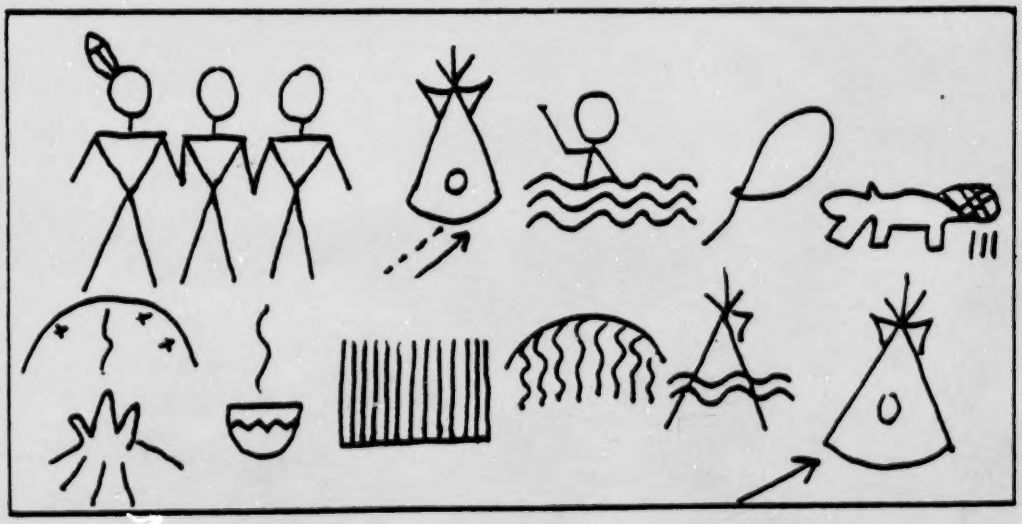
Make bundles of five 𝍸.

Count the bundles.

Add them and write the total.

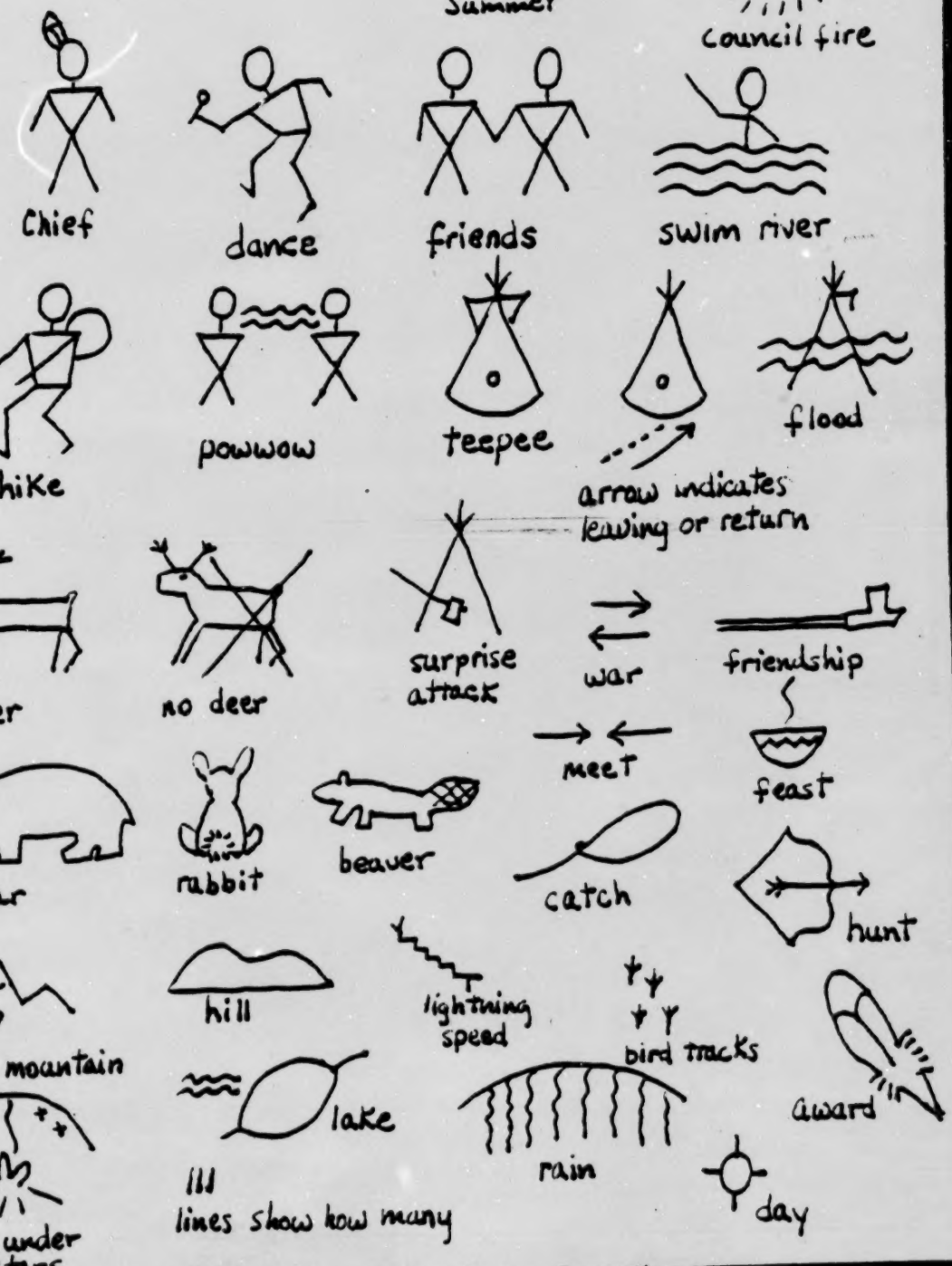
NATIVE AMERICAN PICTURE WRITING

So many children have distorted ideas about American Indians. The Fall is a good time to introduce them to Native American culture. Native American Picture Writing is a good activity to begin with your class. Tell the children that there are many other written languages than the one they speak. Some groups use picture writing. Among the groups who use this method of communicating were Native American tribes. Below is an example of a picture writing story. On the next page are the symbols with the proper names. Have students try to translate the story. Then ask them to make an attempt at writing their own picture stories. The second grade children can add translations to their stories.



Translation: A chief and his friends swam across a river to catch some beavers. They camped under the stars and ate some food. It was summer and it rained. There was a flood so they went home.

Native American Picture Writing Symbols



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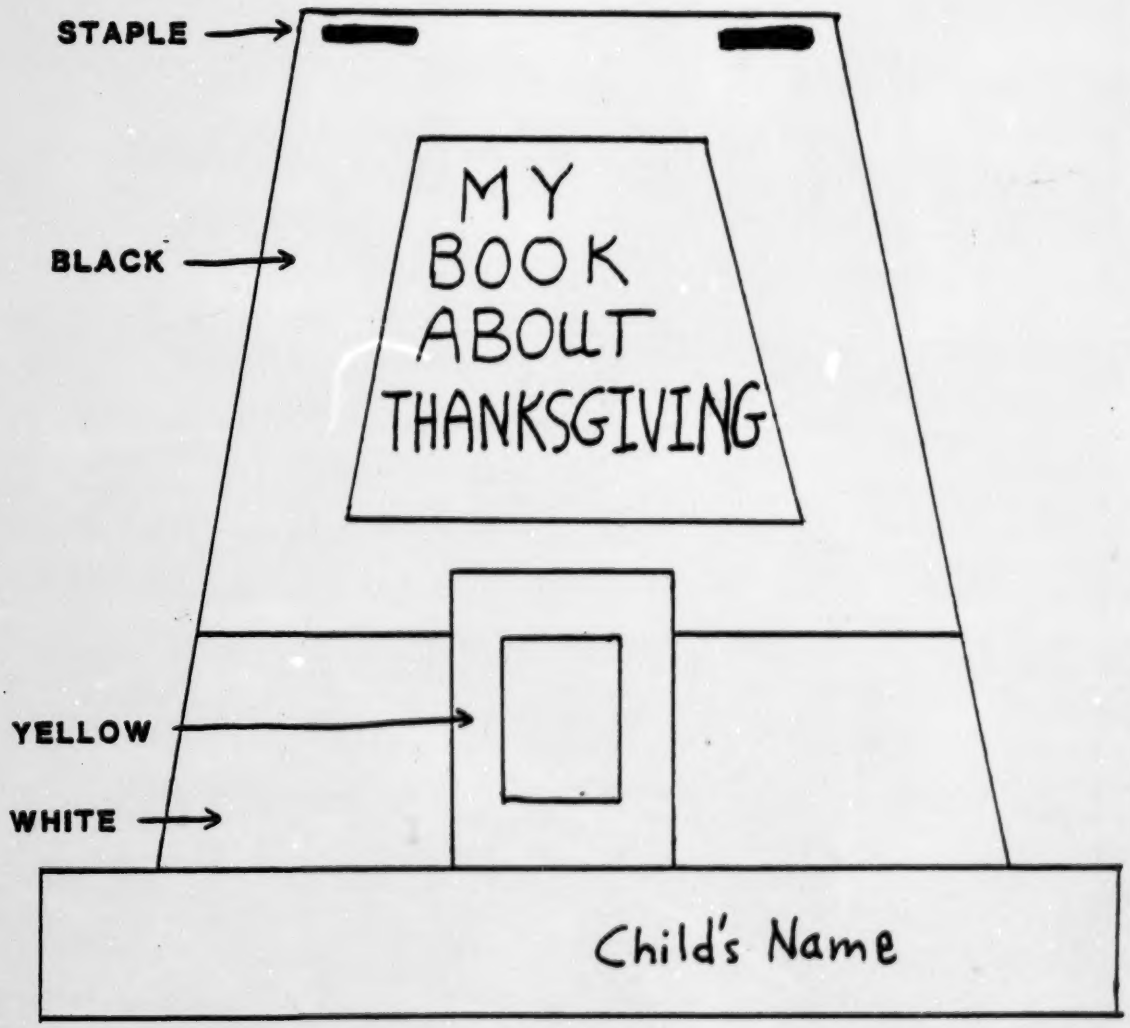
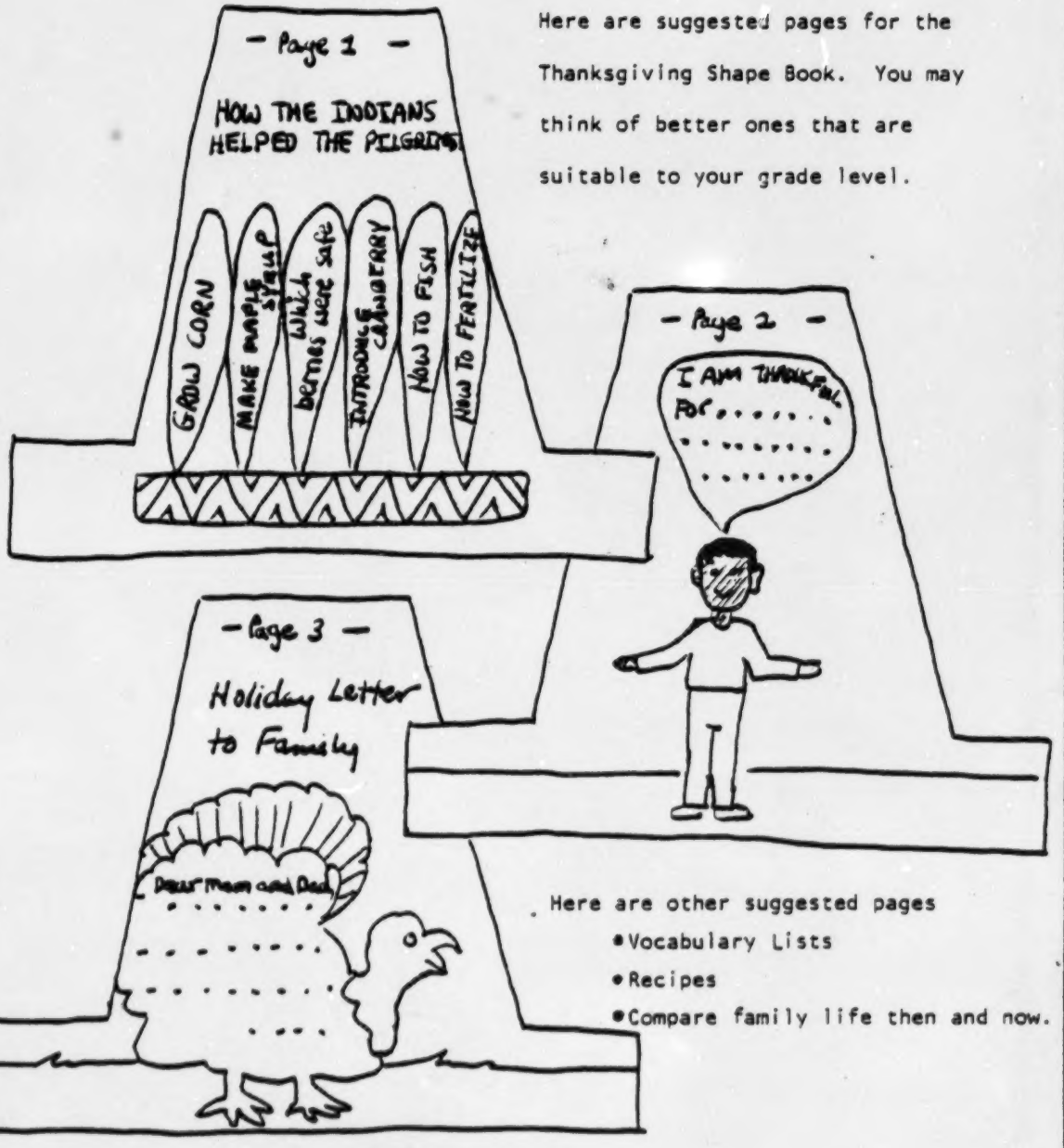
THANKSGIVING SHAPE BOOK

Here is how to make the cover for the children's Thanksgiving Shape Book. Trace the Pilgrim's hat below onto two pieces of oaktag and a few sheets of lined paper and cut out the shape. Staple the cover to the pages and finish it with the second oaktag for the back cover.





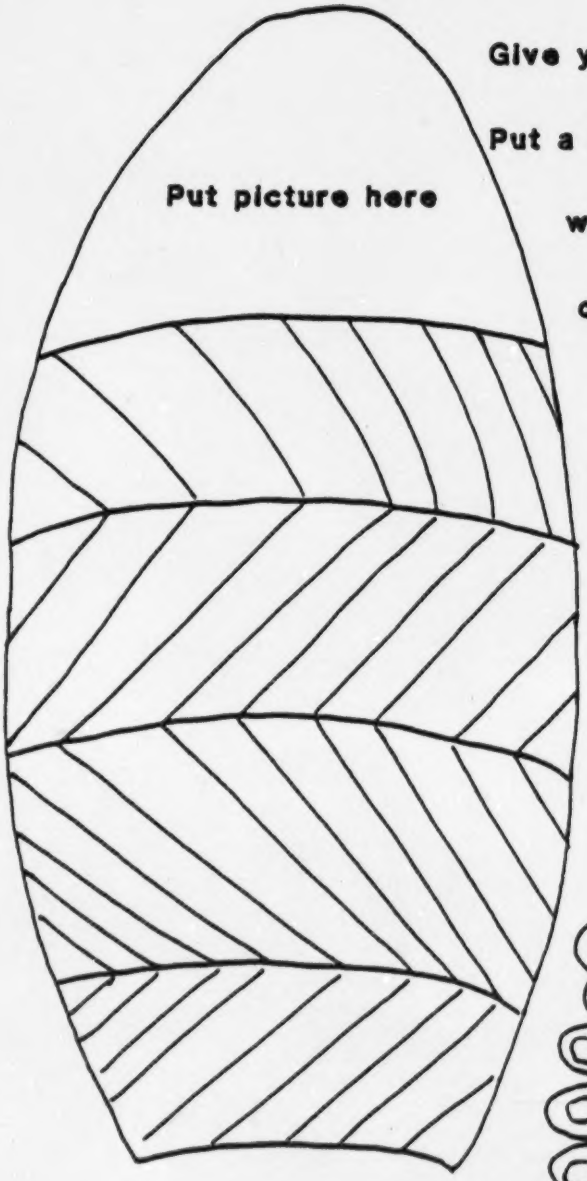
Here are suggested pages for the Thanksgiving Shape Book. You may think of better ones that are suitable to your grade level.

Here are other suggested pages

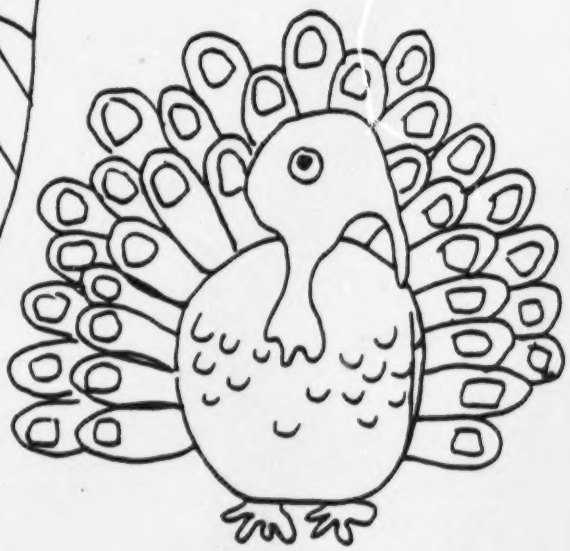
- Vocabulary Lists
- Recipes
- Compare family life then and now.

When you have a good collection of books, you can staple them to the board and have an instant Thanksgiving Day Bulletin Board.

TOM TURKEY BULLETIN BOARD



Give your children a cut out feather. Put a picture of a word that begins with the letter T. Have the children color their feathers. Place them around a turkey body and you have a colorful Thanksgiving Day Bulletin Board.



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